

Monday, September 13. 1708.

London, September 13.

On Saturday arriv'd the Mail from Holland of Tuesday last.

From the Paris Gazette, dated Sept. 15.

Brussels, Sept. 7.

**T**HE two Armies of France joyn'd the 29th past, the Marshal Duke of Berwick having march'd with such Diligence, that my Lord Marlborough could not hinder their joyning. So he returned to the Schelde, which he repass'd the 30th, and the 31st he march'd towards the Marque to cover the Siege of Lille. The Letters from London of the 31st of last Month advise, that a Ship which arriv'd the 28th at Bristol from Jamaica, brought an Account, that M. de Caffe had attack'd 11 English Merchant Ships, and taken 8 of them. The Fleet commanded by Admiral Bing, not succeeding on the Coasts of Bologne and Picardie, propos'd to make a Descent near La Hogue on the Coast of Normandy, and to that end put their Soldiers into Shallops: But 1000 Men well arm'd appearing on the Coast, and the Cannon and Bombs of the Fort having sunk a Frigate and shot down the Masts of a large Ship, the Troops were reembark'd to try their Fortune in some other Part, where in all Appearance the Fleet will have no better Success. This was the secret Expedition talk'd of 3 Months together, and by which 'twas hop'd great Detachments would be drawn towards the Coasts from the Army of France, which has not sent thither so much as one Regiment.

\* This being an Occurrence of great Consequence, could not escape the Vigilance of this impartial Gazetteer: But Commodore Wager's Action with the Galeons, was so trivial an Affair, that he has not thought it worth taking Notice of.

From the Camp of Mons en Peule, Sept. 9. The King's Army made an End of passing the Schelde the 1st and 2d of this Month, and encamp'd within about a League of Tournay. The same Day the Duke of Burgundy gave Order for almost all the heavy and light Baggage to be sent to Valenciennes, Conde, and Tournay. The 4th the Army came and encamp'd here in several Lines, and the 5th a numerous Train of Artillery arriv'd in the Camp. We had Intelligence that My Lord Marlborough was encamp'd at the Entrance of the Plain of Lille, with his Right on the other side of Seclin cover'd by a Morass, and having before it several hollow Ways, in which the Enemy were intrenching themselves: That his Left was likewise cover'd by a Morass at Fretin near the Marque, having before it a rough woody Ground; and that in their Centre the Enemy were fortifying the Villages of Templemars and Entieres. Men were set to work to clear eight large Routes on the Left of the Enemy, towards Fretin. To Day the Duke of Vendome and the Marshal Berwick, went to view the situation of the Camp of the Allies, and we shall march to Morrow or next Day to approach them. The Advices we have receiv'd from Lille, import, that the Besieged continue to defend themselves with extreme Vigour, and that the Enemy were not yet Masters of any Outwork. The Night between the 28th and 29th the Besiegers possess'd themselves of an intrench'd Mill near the Gate of St. Andrew; but the Marshal de Boufflers sent out some Troops who intirely defeated 17 or 18 Companies of Grenadiers which were there, nail'd 16 Cannon, and ruin'd the Intrenchments of the Mill. The Night between the 6th and 7th Prince Eugene caus'd the Counterscarp near the Gate of St. Magdalen to be attack'd. The Enemy were thrice repuls'd with very great Loss. They return'd to the Assault a 4th time, and lodg'd themselves on the two Saillant Angles of the Counterscarp. Last Night they gave another Assault on the Counterscarp, and were again repuls'd with great Slaughter. We are assur'd, that in these two Nights they had above 10000 Men kill'd or wounded. 'Tis confirm'd that they continue to want Provisions.

The Paris Letter.

Paris, Sept. 14. The 10th of this Month a Courier from M. de Chamillart brought the King an Account, that our Army had pass'd the Marque the 9th and encamp'd with the Right at the Village of Ennevelin and the Left at Phalempin; and that the grand Guards of both Armies were so near that they could talk to each other. That the Duke of Burgundy had agreed on Signals with the Marshal de Boufflers, who was to make his when he should find himself distress'd: And this made it believ'd there would inevitably be a Battle, but that it would not be begun till those Signals were given, because the Garrison was at that Instant to make a Sally. The same Courier brought an Account

Cover'd Way; but that it succeeded no better than the former, and even cost them more Blood. Letters from the Army dated the 11th relate, that the Enemy's Army have cast up Intrenchments of 6 Foot in Depth and 8 or 10 in Breadth; that the 11th in the Morning 16 Pieces of our Cannon of twenty four pound Ball began to fire upon them, that the 12th the Cannonading would be renew'd with 40 Pieces, and continued the following Days with a greater Number; the Duke of Burgundy resolving to beat down all the Intrenchments and destroy the Villages which were of Defence to them, in Order the more easily to march up to the Enemy. These Letters of the 11th tell us M. d' Estrades was detach'd with a Body of Horse, most of them of the King's Household, to joyn the Count de la Mothe, who with his own Troops and those of the Party-Leader la Croix was on the Causeway of Menin, with Design to cut off the Enemy's Convoys, and that one of their Convoys which was come out of Brussels, having Intelligence of the march of our Troops, turn'd back again for fear of being taken. M. de la Mothe caus'd that Causeway to be broken and spoil'd, because 'tis the only Way by which the Enemy can receive Convoys. By these Letters we are also inform'd, that the Marshal de Boufflers had retaken the Tenailles of the Cover'd-Way; and that he has caus'd Works to be made which will give the Enemy as much Employment as the regular Fortifications. In the mean while we entertain great Hopes from the Situation of our Army, and from the Eagerness which the Troops express for fighting. There is no other News.

The Logick of this Letter is excellent: A Battle was thought inevitable, because the Signals were agreed which the Marshal de Boufflers was to make when he should be in Distress; and yet, it seems he is no nearer being distress'd than he was when the Siege began, having made Works as strong as were the regular Fortifications. Again, If 'twas agreed between the Duke of Burgundy and the Marshal de Boufflers, that the former should give the Onset against the Army of the Allies and the latter make a Sally at the same Time; it may very reasonably be demanded of the French, whether they had not the fairest Opportunity they could propose for executing this concerted Project, when Prince Eugene had so much weaken'd the Forces employ'd in the Siege, by joyning the Duke of Marlborough with a strong Detachment? Certainly that was the only Time for the Marshal de Boufflers to make his Sally. On the other Hand, it must be own'd the French have seeming Reason on their Side to ask, Why the Allies were so ready to come to a general Engagement, on the fifth of September, as purposely to leave the Entrance of the Plain of Lille open and unguarded to invite the Enemy to a Tryal of Skill on a clear Stage; and yet but 6 Days after, when the Enemy came fairly into the Plain, extended themselves from Ennevelin to Phalempin, and seem'd to court a Battle, the Allies kept within their Intrenchments and rejected the Invitation? If we argue against the French from common Appearances, we must be content to defend the Allies by common Appearances only: I say then, (without pretending that there may not be private Reasons of the greatest Force) that the visible Reason of this Alteration of the Sentiments of the Generals of the Allies, seems to be the Alteration of the Circumstances of their Affairs: Between the 5th and 11th of September, Lodgements were made on the Counterscarp of Lille; by which just so much as the speedy Reduction of the Town was rendred practicable and easy, so much was it become less the Affair of those Generals to engage the Enemy: For, while the Cause for fighting was equal on both Sides, our Generals sought it; but when they had gain'd the Counterscarp, (not without the Loss of a good Number of their Men, which is something in the Argument,) the Question was alter'd; then the Enemy were reduc'd to a Necessity of fighting if they would relieve the Place, whereas the Allies had nothing to do but to make one general Assault more, to carry it of Course: And that I cannot doubt will be the Case, notwithstanding all the Noise the French make of the strong Works and Resolution of the Marshal de Boufflers to stand a Storm. For let any Man consider, what Encouragement the Garrison can have to make a desperate Resistance, when they see the Army which should have lent them a helping Hand, are march'd off. If indeed it shall appear in the Event, that the Difficulties of carrying the Place, are (as the French pretend) as great now as they were before the Counterscarp was taken, and that the Allies could not but be sensible of it, then I will acknowledge that the Question Why were not the Allies as willing to fight



the French Army the 11th or 12th of September as they were the 5th? will return again upon Reasoners from common Appearances.

From the Amsterdam Gazette, dated Sept. 12.

From the Camp before Lille, Sept. 13. The Night between the 10th and 11th, we continued to perfect our Works, and to carry on the Communication along the Palliades; some Batteries were also rais'd; among them one of 8 Pieces to ruine what remain'd of the Hornwork on the Right. We advanc'd also on the Left, and work'd to make Descents into the Ditch. The Night between the 11th and 12th the Trenches were reliev'd by the Imperialists; but on Advice the 11th that the Enemy had approach'd the Intrenchments of our grand Army, Prince Eugene went thither with 15 Battallions and the Cavalry. The Night between the 12th and 13th we continued to perfect our Works, and to carry them on as much as possible. This Morning we made a great Fire from our Batteries, to ruine the Tenaille and the Hornwork. The Convoy which came from Brussels under the Guard of my Lord Albemarle, is safely arriv'd here. This Morning Prince Eugene return'd with his Troops.

From the Camp of the Allies at Frezin, Sept. 13. The 11th the French Army advanc'd before our Intrenchments, of which Advice was sent to Prince Eugene, who repair'd hither with the Prince of Nassau, the Electoral Prince of Hanover, King Augustus, and Part of the Troops of the Siege. The Enemy contented themselves with firing from some Batteries of Cannon, on the Village of Entieres which was intrench'd, without doing us any Damage. The following Night the Army lay on their Arms, all the Generals keeping at their Posts. We had Intelligence that M. de Chamillart came the 9th to the Enemy's Camp. The 12th in the Morning the Troops were drawn up in Order of Battle, because we expected to be attack'd by the Enemy, who the Night before had plac'd 40 or 50 Cannon on their Batteries, some of which are twenty four Pounders. They have besides a large Train which they receiv'd from Doway. They began to fire at 7 in the Morning, and continued it till 7 at Night, without doing us any Hurt, their Ground being much lower than that on which we are encamp'd. That Day they made some Marches and Countermarches before our Camp, but without coming within Musquet-shot. We have on two Eminencies two Batteries, besides those on our Intrenchments; from which we can take the Enemy in Flank if they come to attack us. On our Part we have answer'd them only with 3 Cannon-shot. The 12th the Earl of Albemarle join'd us with 30 Squadrons.

From the Camp at Frezin, Sept. 13, at 11 a Clock at Night. Yesterday the Enemy made a Motion with their Left, towards Seclin, where is their Centre; but they continued with their Right towards Aigremont, Ennevelin, and Entreulle, where they have a Battery which cannonaded us all the Day. This Motion of the Enemy made us believe they had some Design, the rather because Deserters reported that the Duke of Burgundy had order'd Brandy to be distributed to the Solders, and went from Rank to Rank to animate the Troops to fight. The Generals and the Lords the Field-Deputies went to take a near View of the Enemy's Army, and afterwards held a Council of War, in Order to take the necessary Measures for opposing their Designs. The Cavalry were commanded to fetch Fascines, and the Infantry work'd during the Night to perfect our Intrenchments.

The 13th in the Morning, 'twas expected the Enemy would continue their Cannonading, because they had work'd all the Night upon Batteries; but they have not fir'd all Day, and have work'd with great Diligence to intrench themselves at Seclin and to draw off their Batteries. 'Tis said the Reason for which they kept quiet, is, M. de Chamillart's arriving the 9th to their Camp to induce the Generals to come to an unanimous Resolution; but some of them giving their Opinion for a Battle and others against it, that Minister did not think fit to take upon himself the Decision of the Question, tho' 'tis reported he had the Power, and yesterday went away Post, to make a verbal Report to the King and then send his Majesty's Resolution. In the mean time we work'd to fortify our Intrenchments extremely, that we might spare Prince Eugene, who is return'd to the Camp before Lille, with his Troops, to forward the Siege with all possible Vigour. They have begun there two Descents into the Ditch, and are now working on them; and afterwards they will work to fill up the Ditch, to give the Assault the 17th or 18th. To Day our Batteries have made an incessant Fire on the Town, and by the Arrival of the Convoy at the Camp from Brussels it may be continue.

From the Army of the Allies commanded by the Duke of Marlborough, Sept. 13. The 15th the Convoy of 200 Waggon's loaded with Cannon Bullets for the Siege of Lille, arrived at Audenarde, with a Guard of 1200 Foot commanded by

Colonel Freke. The 16th Brigadier Chanclos was detach'd with 10 Squadrons to Audenarde; he will be join'd there by 10 Squadrons from the Forces before Lille, and will find in the Town 6 Battallions. My Lord Duke having Intelligence that the Count de la Mothe was march'd from Ghent, with all the Forces he could draw together in Flanders; sent Orders the 16th to Major General Murray to march and secure Brussels with the greatest Part of the Troops that are in Dutch Flanders. The 15th the Enemy made a Motion to their Right and encamp'd near Orchies. The 16th they sent 12 Battallions into Doway, and march'd back towards the Schelde; whereupon our Army mov'd and encamp'd with their Left at Forest on the Marque, and their Right at Peronne: The Head-Quarter is at this Place. This Morning we had an Account, that the Enemy were passing the Schelde above and below Tournay: Our Army continue in a Readyness to observe them, and to march and possess themselves of such Posts, as may prevent their making a Diversion by attacking any of our Places or attempting to interrupt the Siege.

From the Antwerp Courant, dated Sept. 18.

Paris, Sept. 14. Our Court flatter themselves that the hard Rains which have fallen these two Days together, will be of Advantage to the Besieged in Lille.

Letters from Courtray of the 15th say they had great Rains in Flanders.

For Want of Room, I must refer to my next some Articles relating to the Siege of Lille and the Armies in Flanders.

From the Paris Gazette, dated Sept. 15.

Paris, Sept. 15. We have Advice from Brest of the 6th of this Month, that M. du Casse's Squadron of Men of War which convoy'd the Flota from the Spanish West Indies, is arriv'd there with the Ship's Companies in a good Condition, only one Officer and some Seamen being dead. They report, that the Spaniards of those Parts, had given all possible Proofs of their Zeal and Fidelity for the Service of the King of Spain, which they shew'd in a particular Manner on the Occasion of the Birth of the Prince of Asturias, celebrating it with extraordinary Rejoycings.

From the Amsterdam Gazette, dated Sept. 18.

The Advices from the Camp of the Duke of Savoy at Balbotte import, that the 31st past Fenestrelles surrender'd to his Royal Highness; and that the Garrison could not obtain any other Capitulation than to be made Prisoners of War, to the Number of 7 or 800 Men; and the Letters from Milan of the 4th of this Month say Prince Emanuel de Soissons pass'd through that City the Sunday before, to carry this News to the Court of Vienna. 'Tis reported, that the Reduction of that Place was hasten'd by the Accident of a Bomb's falling into a Magazine of Powder, which blew up. The same Letters add, they had receiv'd a Confirmation by the Way of Genoa, that the City of Cagliari in Sardinia had submitted to the Obedience of King Charles III, the 13th of August; but they had not the Particulars yet.

Deale, Sept. 10. The 8th at Night came into the Downes from Spithead, Sir George Byng with the Squadron under his Command and about 40 Transports having on board the Regiments of Foot with which he had been some Weeks on the Coast of France: The Dragoons were left at Portsmouth, and the Marines are to have no Part in the Service on which the said Foot are now order'd. Yesterday General Erle remov'd from the Humber on board the Grayhound, which with the Newcastle, Falkland, Salisbury, St. Albans, Ludlow-Castle, Experiment and Tartar, sail'd last Night for Ostend; whither it not being thought proper for the great Ships to proceed, Sir George Byng remains on Board the Humber, with several other of her Majesties Ships, in the Downes.

**A**t the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, to Morrow being Tuesday, the 14th of September, will be presented the Tragedy of Macbeth.

Just Publish'd,

An exact Plan of Lille, as now fortify'd, shewing also the Approaches made by the Allies. Printed on a Super-Royal Sheet of Paper, Price 6 d. Note, This is very unlike any already extant in England. Sold by Christ. Browne at the Globe the West-end of St. Paul's, London; by whom is also sold a new Map of Europe, and the Maps of War in Flanders, on the Rhine, in France, Spain, Italy, and Savoy.

To Morrow will be publish'd,

The True and Exact Plan of Lille, with all its Fortifications, and the Lines, Attacks, Batteries and Encampments of the Besiegers, the Particular Post and Name of each Regiment Horse and Foot, and the Quarters of Prince Eugene and the other Generals: Drawn upon the Spot by M. des Roques, Chief Director of the Attacks, sent to the States of Holland, and Publish'd at the Hague upon a large Sheet of Imperial Paper. Sold for 1 s. by David Mortier Book Map and Printseller at the Sign of Erasmus's Head near the Savoy in the Strand, who likewise sells the only true Plan of the Battle of Audenarde.